

D/HA
Human Rights Office
Routing Slip

Date: 7/8

From: _____

INFO ACTION INITIALS

Ms. ~~Derian~~

Mr. Schneider

Mr. Jones

Mr. Hill

Ms. Bova

Mr. Brody

Ms. Hanson

Mr. Heilsnis

Ms. Hanley

Ms. Capps

ALL

FILE - Argentina

COMMENTS:

Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny ☐ Declassify
Exemptions b () () E.O. 13526 25x (X) ()
Declassify after _____

With concurrence of: _____

IPS by OPS obtained _____ not obt. _____Date 10-24-16

D/H A

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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July 2, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Human Rights in Argentina

Your memorandum to the Secretary of June 27 informed the Department of the President's wishes to acknowledge human rights actions taken by the Argentine government on June 14. These actions were the basis for acknowledgements by both the Secretary at Grenada and by our Director to the World Bank:

-- In his conversation with Foreign Minister Montes at Grenada on June 16, the Secretary informed his counterpart that we would be abstaining on two Argentine loans in the World Bank but made reference to recent progress.

-- The same day in the World Bank, our Director stated that there have been a number of recent indicators which suggest that the situation may be changing for the better in Argentina. The Director continued that it was the United States strong hope that further improvement in the human rights situation will make it possible for us to support future loans to Argentina. Privately, our Director made it clear to his Argentine colleague that the indicators we were talking about were the June 14 actions.

With respect to the improvements noted in your memorandum, our Embassy in Buenos Aires commented upon them in its B.A. 04638 of June 22.

-- The Embassy stated that the release of 342 persons from executive custody over two weeks represents a considerably larger number of people than usual.

Department of State, A/GS/IPS/SHIP

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However, the Embassy noted that we do not know how many people actually regained liberty and how many were turned over to the courts.

-- The processing of almost 1,000 cases of subversion by the federal and military courts is difficult to assess. The Argentine government has not released the names of those tried, the nature of the charges, or information on the sentences.

-- President Videla's reported instructions to his officials to analyze the reinstatement of the suspended right of option recalls earlier reviews of this subject. The last review resulted in an extension until September. The Embassy feels it is unclear whether more favorable action may be expected after September.

Based on continuing information on abuses emanating from all elements of our Mission in Argentina, the Department believes that the June 14 steps should be viewed cautiously. They may possibly be nothing more than a statistical smoke screen designed to mask a continued repressive policy.

The attached cable, in accordance with the President's wishes, expresses United States interest in recent Argentine steps and elicits further information. We would appreciate your clearance.

Frank X. Zimmer for
Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

- Cable to Amembassy, Buenos Aires
--BA 04638 of June 22

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Drafted: ARA/ECA:FERondon:jc
6/30/77:x29166

Clearances: ARA/ECA:RWZimmermann (draft)/*H*
D/HA:MSchneider (draft)/*R*
ARA:FDevine *JD*

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ARA:FDEVINE

D/HA:MSCHNEIDER {DRAFT}
ARA:GLISTER {INFO}
S/S:

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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ARA/ECA:RUZIMMERMANN {DRAFT}
NSC:

ROUTINE

BUENOS AIRES

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

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FOR THE CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: GOA NOTES HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS

REF: B.A. 04638

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS NOTED RECENT ARGENTINE ACTIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE, INCLUDING THE RELEASE OF PERSONS FROM CUSTODY, THE PROCESSING OF CASES IN THE COURTS, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE RIGHT OF OPTION MAY BE REINSTITATED.

2. WHILE THESE ACTIONS WERE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE SECRETARY AT GRENADA AND BY OUR DIRECTOR AT THE WORLD BANK, WE BELIEVE THAT A FURTHER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MAKE THE ARGENTINES AWARE OF OUR INTEREST IN THESE AND CONTINUING STEPS TOWARD THE RESTORATION OF THE RULE OF LAW.

3. YOU ARE REQUESTED, THEREFORE, TO APPROACH THE GOA AT AN APPROPRIATELY SENIOR LEVEL AND NOTE THE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS IN RECENTLY ANNOUNCED GOA STEPS AND INQUIRE WHETHER FURTHER INFORMATION COULD BE PROVIDED CONCERNING THESE STEPS. FOR EXAMPLE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN

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ACTION ARA-14

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-22 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
10-13 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 4638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, AR, US, EFIN

SUBJECT: GOA NOTES HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 138380, (B) BUENOS AIRES 4444, (C) BUENOS AIRES 4483

SUMMARY: AS ANTICIPATED IN DEMARCHES BY MARTINEZ DE HOZ IN
BUENOS AIRES (REFTEL B) AND AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL IN
WASHINGTON (REFTEL A), ARGENTINE OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED A
NUMBER OF ACTIONS JUNE 14 THAT BEAR ON THE COUNTRY'S HUMAN
RIGHTS IMAGE OVERSEAS. THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS INCLUDE THE RELEASE
OF 342 PERSONS FROM EXECUTIVE CUSTODY, PROCESSING OF ALMOST
1,000 SUBVERSIVE CASES IN FEDERAL AND MINISTRIAL COURTS,
POSSIBLE REINSTATEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF
OPTION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, AND BANNING OF TWO ISSUES
OF A FAR RIGHT, RACIST MAGAZINE. WHILE THE ANNOUNCEMENTS IN
THEMSELVES SHOW LITTLE BY WAY OF CERTIFIABLE SUBSTANTIVE
CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES, THE
GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO COMPILE EXAMPLES OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IMPROVEMENTS DEMONSTRATES ITS RISING SENSITIVITY TO THE
SERIOUSNESS OF THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND OUR
ADVERSE VOTES IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

END SUMMARY

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1. AS NOTED IN REFTEL B, GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA'S (GOA'S)
PRESENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS DEMONSTRATES BASICALLY
FRIENDLY GESTURES AND INCREASED CONCERN ON THE PART OF GOA
OFFICIALS TO MAINTAIN POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP IN
RESPONSE TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION. THE
LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN, HOWEVER, SHOWS LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE.
AS ANTICIPATED, THE GOA ACTIONS AND COMMUNIQUE WERE RELEASED
JUNE 14 AND PUBLISHED IN JUNE 15 PRESS.

2. AS A 15-DAY COMPENDIUM THE LISTING OF 342 PERSONS CITED AS
NO LONGER BEING HELD AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE IS
CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN THE TYPICAL WEEKLY LISTS PUT OUT BY
THE INTERIOR MINISTRY. FURTHER, THERE IS NO WAY IMMEDIATELY
TO VERIFY THAT PERSONS LISTED HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN RELEASED.
(MARTINEZ DE HOZ DID, HOWEVER, TELL CHARGE THAT THE PERSONS
LISTED WERE DEFINITELY BEING PHYSICALLY RELEASED FROM
DETENTION AND NOT JUST PASSED TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.)

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 1

WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENT
Department of State
Executive Secretariat

Action: ARA/ECA/1
ARA
cc: JJ, WH
G. Nister.

ACTION TO: ARA 45 D/HA

S/S 7716517

6/28

INFO TO:

Date 6/27/77

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<input type="checkbox"/> S/PRS	<input type="checkbox"/> EUR	<input type="checkbox"/> Borg/Brzezinski Memorandum	
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<input type="checkbox"/> D/LOS	* Please prepare cable to Embassy requesting acknowledgment but ap. nominal levels. Cable should be cleared with NSC Staff		Due Date in S/S: _____
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Authorized by:

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Department of State, A/GIS/APS/SRP

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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June 27, 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR

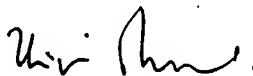
THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Human Rights in Argentina

The President noted that the Argentines have recently announced a series of actions designed to improve their human rights image. These actions include:

- releasing of 342 persons from custody;
- processing in the courts the cases of nearly 1,000 persons awaiting trial on charges of subversion; and
- hinting at the reinstatement of the individuals' constitutional right to leave the country.

The President would like you to acknowledge this Argentine commitment to human rights.



Zbigniew Brzezinski

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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/STP
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NADA II

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HA County Files 1977

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